

52 *MEMOIRS OF NAPOLEON
BONAPARTE.*

did he, in the whole course of the conversation, betray, either by his countenance or manner, a single emotion of resentment or regret."

About the middle of May, 1814, Baron Kohler, the Austrian Commissioner, took farewell of Napoleon to return to Vienna. The scene of Napoleon's parting with this gentleman is said to have been quite pathetic on the Emperor's side. He wept as he embraced General Kohler, and entreated him to procure, if possible, his re-union with his wife and child, hailed him the preserver of his life, regretted his poverty, which prevented his bestowing on him some valuable token of remembrance, finally, folding the Austrian General in his arms, he held him there for some time, repeating expressions of warm attachment. This sensibility existed all upon one side, for an English gentleman who witnessed the scene is said to have asked Kohler afterwards what he was thinking of while locked in the Emperor's embraces. "I am a fool," answered the Austrian.

After the departure of Baron Kohler Colonel Sir Neil Campbell was the only one of the four Commissioners who remained at Elba by orders of the British Cabinet. It was difficult to say what his office really was, or what were his instructions. He had neither power, right, nor means to interfere with Napoleon's motions. The Emperor had been recognized by a treaty as an independent sovereign. It was therefore only as a nondescript kind of envoy that Sir Neil Campbell was permitted to reside at his Court. In fact, Sir Neil Campbell had no direct or ostensible situation, and of this the French at Elba took advantage. Drouot, the Governor of Porto-Ferrajo, made such particular mention into the character assumed by the British envoy, and the length of his stay, as to oblige Campbell to declare that his orders were to remain in Elba till the breaking up of the Congress, which was now settling the affairs of Europe, but if his orders should direct him to continue there after that period he would apply to have his situation placed on a recognized footing.

Napoleon did not oppose the equivocal residence of Sir Neil